

# Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



## Parent Consultations

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Book your appointment [here](#)

### Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



[www.hillsidefirstschool.org](http://www.hillsidefirstschool.org) ~ 01202 822737 ~ [office@hillsidefirstschool.org](mailto:office@hillsidefirstschool.org)



## Headteacher Update Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Can you believe we're already into October! It has been another brilliant week across school with lots to celebrate.

We had special guests in Monday's assembly from Youth Rides - hopefully you've seen the flyer that came home. Youth Rides is a registered charity supporting young people who use local skateparks; our two local groups are in Ringwood and Verwood. They aim to provide a sense of belonging, encouragement and community participation while enjoying the sport! They are looking for new riders to join.

Thank you for all the Harvest donations so far - if you have any last-minute items, please bring them in on Monday and we'll deliver everything to the local foodbank. Our Harvest Festival for the children is also on Monday.

Our Year 4 children enjoyed the first school trip of the year to Verwood's solar farm. Huge thanks to the solar farm team who organised the visit free of charge and covered transport. The children carried out a biodiversity study and learned more about solar panels. Next week staff from the solar farm will be in school to run a workshop for the children - please see the photos below.

I've been so impressed with the writing in Years 1 and 2 this week. Their work has been linked to the story *The Day the Crayons Quit*: Year 1 have been practising nouns and writing full sentences, and Year 2 have been working on exclamation sentences. My office has been busy with children popping in to show me their work - always a highlight of my day.

What a weekend for sport - an incredible achievement for the England women's rugby team winning the World Cup in front of the second largest crowd ever (men or women), and Europe retaining the Ryder Cup in golf. Two fantastic examples of our school values: ambition and perseverance!

And finally - the school discos! There's been lots of buzz and excitement about them. A huge thank you to our PTA for organising everything.

Thanks for another lovely week - enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards,

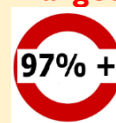
Mr Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	92%
Little Owls 2	87%
Tawny Owls 1	91%
Tawny Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 3	99%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	98%

Whole School 95%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30  
School finishes at 15:00

## World Mental Health Day Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October



Children can wear yellow to school on this MUFTI day to support this worthy cause for a suggested donation of £1 to the World Mental Health Charity via Arbor.

**Congratulations** to the following children for being our latest **Stars of the Week**:

**Star**  
of the  
**WEEK**



Little Owls 1  
**Rowan**

Little Owls 2  
**Blossom**

Tawny Owls 1  
**Elijah**

Tawny Owls 2  
**Felicity**

Tawny Owls 3  
**Dominic**

Snowy Owls 1  
**Millie**

Snowy Owls 2  
**Emily**

Snowy Owls 3  
**Zachary**



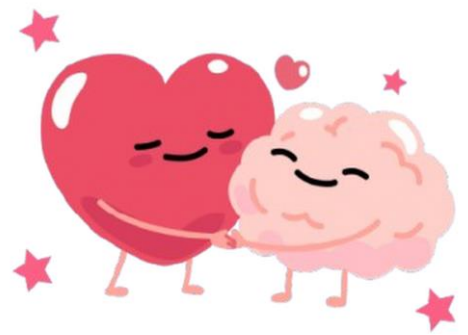


# Year 4 Solar Farm Visit





# Mental Health Matters



At Hillside First School, we believe that looking after our mental wellbeing is just as important as looking after our physical health. For children (and adults too!), feeling calm, happy, and supported helps us all to learn and grow.

To help families nurture positive mental health at home, we have created a dedicated [Wellbeing](#) section on our school website. This space is filled with practical ideas, helpful tips, and links to trusted resources to support children's emotional development and overall wellbeing.

Each week we will feature a resource that offers expert guidance and practical parenting tips. We hope you find these suggestions helpful and supportive.



## This week's focus: "Bereavement"



Grief is a personal and often challenging journey, especially for children. While it's natural to want to protect them from pain, children need support to understand their emotions. Each child's grief is unique, influenced by age, personality, and their relationship to the loss. This guide from Mosaic offers advice based on real family experiences to help you support your child. It aims to create a safe space where they can express feelings, ask questions, and grow while carrying love and memories forward.

The guide can be found [here](#).



Click the logo to visit the website



# EVENTS

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a special Harvest Festival for the children on **Monday 6th October**. In the spirit of giving and community, we would appreciate any food donations you can kindly spare which we will take to a local Food Bank.

If you are able to help, we kindly request donations of the following items by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October:

Canned goods  
Pasta sauce  
Long-life milk  
Long-life juice  
Cereal  
Biscuits  
Tea bags

Thanks in advance for your generosity and support.



## EAST DORSET YEAR 3, 5 and 5 FUN RUN

Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

AT ST MICHAEL'S MIDDLE SCHOOL

Arrive 3.30pm-3.50pm

First Race – 4.00pm



Year 3, 4 and 5 are invited to enter the **EAST DORSET FUN RUN**. The fun run will be approximately 1km. Year 3 and 4 will compete together. Year 5 will be in a separate race.

Please arrive at 3.50pm at St Michaels Middle School.

*Parents are required to stay on site whilst their child participates.*

To enter scan the QR code and fill in the form.



**Organiser:** Mrs Katrina Cole, School Games Organiser  
[sgo4eastdorset@gmail.com](mailto:sgo4eastdorset@gmail.com)  
Schools will be told if event is cancelled.



Youth Riders is a free-to-join skatepark group in Ringwood & Verwood.

Our aim is to create a positive and supportive environment for young people to learn new skills, connect with friends, and have fun using the skatepark.

We foster a safe and encouraging space to develop skills, socialise, and enjoy scootering, biking and boarding.

We have fortnightly meets and also arrange events and competitions to build confidence and team spirit

Follow the QR code to sign up via  Spond  
or email [Charly.Keith@youth-riders.org.uk](mailto:Charly.Keith@youth-riders.org.uk)



Youth Riders is a registered charity with Charity number 1212183





 **Hillside First School**  
*'Where children are at the heart of everything we do'*

**FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026**

# Open Days

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October - 09:00**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - 17:00**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November - 09:00**

Scan the QR code below to book your place or complete the booking form on our website.



We are very proud of our school. We would love to show you around and let you see what we do and how we learn.

There will be a presentation at 09:00 and 17:00 by our Headteacher, Mr Graves followed by a school tour.

[www.hillsidefirstschool.org](http://www.hillsidefirstschool.org) ~ 01202 822737

 **SCAN ME!**

 **Hillside Pre-School**  
*'Celebrating 35 Years'*  
Verwood  
Established 1990



**WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026 & 2027**

Hillside Pre-School is open term time, Monday - Friday and accepts children with both 15 and 30 hour funding. We have a Breakfast Club running from 7:45am, and After School Club running from 3pm, for both Hillside First and Pre-School children.

To book a tour of our wonderful setting, which opened in April 1990, contact Mrs Ford on:

**01202 820 679**  
Email: [office@hillsidepreschool.org](mailto:office@hillsidepreschool.org)  
or visit: [www.hillsidepreschool.org](http://www.hillsidepreschool.org)

## You're invited to **Let's Talk SEND Week 2025!**



**Let's Talk SEND Week** is back this October, offering a series of events designed to create open, honest conversations between children, families, and the professionals who support them.

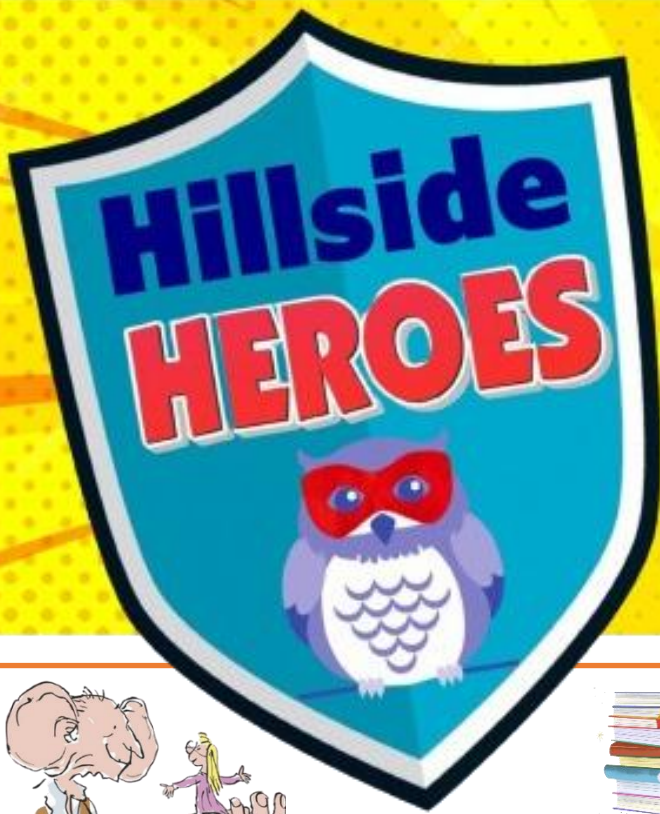
This collection of events is organised in partnership with:

- **Dorset Council**
- **NHS Dorset**
- **Dorset Parent Carer Council (DPCC)**
- **SENDIASS**

Whether you're looking for advice, information, or simply a chance to connect with others, **Let's Talk SEND Week** is here to support you.

For more information and details about the SEND drop in session, please follow the link [here](#).





# Meet our heroes



Daisy won the Roald Dahl quiz competition at Verwood library recently.

She won two books by Roald Dahl; 'The BFG' and 'Matilda'. Daisy will kindly donate these to the school as she has the whole collection at home.



Daisy also got a big piece of brownie cake too from the lovely staff at the Library.

**Fantastic Daisy, well done!**

Lyra recently passed her stage 2 swimming. She is really proud to be moving into stage 3 and doing her lessons in the deep end of the pool.



**Amazing Lyra, well done!**



# Autumn term

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## September

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Inset Day

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Inset Day

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

Inset Day

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

PTA AGM - new members welcome  
18:00 at Hillside First School

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Individual & Sibling Photographs



## October

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>**

New Parents Open Morning  
09:00 - 11:00



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
PTA Event

Mufti Day & School Disco  
Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:30  
Year 2 - Year 4 17:00-18:30

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Harvest Assembly



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>**

World Mental Health Day

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

New Parents Open Evening  
17:00 - 19:00

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Year 3/ 4 trip to Fishbourne  
Roman Palace

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Parent Consultations

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Parent Consultations



**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> -  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup>  
Half Term**



## November

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Inset Day

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event  
Movie Night  
Year R and Year 1

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Remembrance Assembly

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

New Parents Open Morning  
09:00 - 11:00

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Children in Need

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event  
Movie Night  
Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4



**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Mufti Day in exchange for tombola  
donations for our  
Christmas Fayre

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event

Christmas Fayre



## December

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> &  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Christmas Shop



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Jumper Day  
Children can wear a  
Christmas jumper along  
with non-school uniform



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Performances

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Performances

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Performances

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Party Day & Chartwells  
Christmas Lunch  
FREE Mufti day  
Children invited  
to wear party  
Clothes.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Last day  
of term







Hillside First School offers a wide range of after-school clubs to enrich children’s learning and creativity beyond the classroom. From sports and dance to music and computing, there’s something for every child's interest and development.

Day	Club	Booking Information
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Creative Dance</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year R-2) 16:00–17:00 (Year 3-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year R-2 Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year 3-4 Password: <b>Hillside2025!!</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Breakfast Club</b> 08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	<b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Lunch Club</b> 12:00-12:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	<b>BRS After School Football Club</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book via Arbor app
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Computer Xplorers</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Forest School</b> 15:00-16:00	Book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Rocksteady Music School</b> Lessons take place in school	Book <a href="#">here</a>

## Hillside Pre-School Breakfast & After School Club

Hillside Pre-School also offers a **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** for children attending Hillside First School and Hillside Pre-School.

- Breakfast Club runs daily from 07:45
- After School Club is available:
  - ☐ Monday to Thursday: 15:00-18:00
  - ☐ Friday: 15:00-17:00



For more information, please contact Hillside Pre-School on 01202 820679 or visit [www.hillsidepreschool.org](http://www.hillsidepreschool.org)